

Monthly Update – March 2011

# Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

## OUTGROWER SCHEME TEACHES GAPS

USAID-TAPP and Arusha Blooms Ltd. are helping 140 smallholder farmers grow vegetables for local markets and export through market linkages established by Arusha Blooms. The pilot phase of the program just ended, and USAID-TAPP agronomists taught members of the Kiboko farmers’ group good agricultural practices (GAPs) to grow beans and baby corn on Arusha Blooms land. These outgrowers planted their first crop in December 2010 and sold their first harvest for a profit of over Tsh. 700,000 (\$450) each.

## NATURERIPE SUPPORTS MANGO PRODUCTION

USAID-TAPP signed a new partnership agreement with NatureRipe Kilimanjaro Ltd. to continue developing the mango sector in Tanzania. NatureRipe was established in 2001 and works directly with the Association of Mango Growers (AMAGRO) to grow and export mangoes and roasted nuts. USAID-TAPP will support investments in new machinery to improve mango processing and will increase export opportunities for mango pulp. The program will also train 700 mango farmers on drip irrigation, modern mango production techniques and nursery preparation. The partnership will provide market linkages and better prices to more than 1,500 mango farmers in Morogoro and Pwani.

## CHARCOAL COOLSTORES REDUCE LOSSES ON UNGUJA ISLAND

USAID-TAPP has partnered with Volunteer Services Overseas (VSO) to build six charcoal coolstores in western Unguja that will act as collection hubs for produce. Two charcoal coolstores are already complete, and the rest are under construction. Charcoal coolstores use evaporative cooling to maintain a cool interior temperature for refrigeration and food preservation. The coolstores are built with open timber frames lined with charcoal-filled sides. The charcoal is kept moist, and as warm, dry air passes through, the water on the charcoal evaporates and cools the air. Farmers can store produce in the coolstore for up to three days before taking it to the market, minimizing postharvest losses.

## USAID-TAPP SHOWCASES HORTICULTURE FOR FOOD SECURITY

**Arusha:** USAID-TAPP hosted Feed the Future Deputy Coordinator for Development/US Ambassador William Garvelink and USAID/Tanzania Feed the Future Director Tom Hobgood. The two visited a demonstration plot in Timbolo village where the



*Photo by Fintrac Inc.*

**Farmers learn good agricultural practices at Arusha Blooms. Once they graduate they will be able to sell their produce through Arusha’s market linkages.**

## Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

**“Increased food security through enhanced productivity”**

TAPP is a 5-year program designed to increase smallholder farmer incomes through enhanced productivity, crop diversification and improved market access.

Visit [www.tanzania-agric.org](http://www.tanzania-agric.org) for more information on upcoming activities and to receive copies of monthly bulletins and success stories.

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program has introduced new technologies such as raised beds, crop spacing, and drip irrigation. The 25 rural farmers have seen dramatic increases in cabbage quality and yields, which have directly resulted in increased incomes.

*Pwani:* Catherine Bertini and Dan Glickman, co-chairs of the Chicago Council's Global Agricultural Development Initiative, visited the Upendo Womens' Group in Pwani, where USAID-TAPP helped build a greenhouse. The women have enjoyed increased yields and improved market opportunities as a result of program support, and they now sell their produce to the high-end hospitality trade in Dar es Salaam. The co-chairs were on a fact-finding trip to Tanzania and were impressed with USAID-TAPP's impact on income and nutrition.

## TRAINING

In March USAID-TAPP trained 5,801 people on subjects including postharvest handling, production, HIV/AIDS, and business skills. Training took place in all seven regions of the program, including:

*Arusha:* USAID-TAPP facilitated a two-day training in business planning for members of HomeVeg to improve business operation capacity.

*Tanga:* 30 smallholders from Golden Foods Products Ltd. farmer groups were trained in HIV/AIDS prevention, nutrition, and entrepreneurship. The farmers will act as peer educators and pass on what they have learned to other member farmers.

*Mbuguni:* USAID-TAPP held a two-day training at Mbuguni for the Songambe and Nduruma farmer groups. The farmers were trained in HIV/AIDS prevention, nutrition, the safe use of pesticides, and good agricultural practices.

*Zanzibar:* Members of the Mshikamano and Nasisituwe Mbele groups in Zanzibar learned about pest and disease mangement, recordkeeping, and production of key vegetables.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

**Charcoal coolstores in Unguja island help preserve produce until farmers can bring it to market.**

## TECHNOLOGY TOOLBOX



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

**This month USAID-TAPP trained the Yoghoi youth group in Irete, Lushoto in good agricultural practices that will help improve carrot production. The youths learned about improved sowing techniques (left, center) raised beds, drip irrigation, light mulch, and plastic row covers (right) to retain moisture and moderate temperature, all of which stimulate germination and increase yields. The group was amazed to see their carrots sprout after only four days, because before applying these techniques, germination took 12 to 15 days**